DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 25-27, 30-34, 37-40, and 43-58 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-24, 28-29, 35-36, and 41-42 are canceled claims. Claims 51-58 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the examples and on page 12 of the specification. Independent Claims 25 and 50 are amended herein to recite a polymeric dispersing agent B having a molecular weight of not more than 75,000. Support for the amendment is found in the examples, i.e., the last lines on page 20. The claims are further amended to recite an amount of an inorganic salt of 0.5-3.0 wt%. Support for the amendment is found in previously presented Claim 42 and in the second full paragraph on page 12 of the specification and in the examples (e.g., see Table 1 on page 19).

The claims are further amended for matters of form and/or for clarity.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

Independent Claims 25 and 50 now recite a polymeric dispersing agent B having a weight average molecular weight of no more than 95,000. Independent Claims 25 and 50 now also recite the inclusion of an inorganic salt in an amount of 0.5-3.0 wt%. The examples of the specification demonstrate that particular amounts of the inorganic salt provide a dispersion that is significantly more stable and resistant towards viscosity increases upon storage (e.g., see the Examples described in Table 1 on page 19 of the specification).

Applicants submit that the amended claims are both novel and not obvious over the art of record. In particular, both the Hurlock (U.S. 6,265,477) and Selvarajan (U.S. 5,837,776) describe the inclusion of polymeric agents having a molecular weight that is greater than the "no more than 95,000" recited in Claims 25 and 50. In this regard Applicants draw the Office's attention to the sentence bridging columns 4 and 5 of Selvarajan and the disclosure at column 4, lines 56-61 of Hurlock. In both instances the cited art describes polymeric additives that have a minimum molecular weight of 100,000, i.e., greater than the maximum 95,000 recited in the present claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection in view of the Hurlock and Selvarajan references.

Further in this regard Applicants draw the Office's attention to new Claims 57 and 58 which recite a molecular weight of no more than 75,000. The examples of the specification, i.e., Examples 19-24 described in Table 4 on page 20, show that a molecular weight of not more than 75,000 provides substantially improved viscosity properties in the anionic water-in-water polymeric dispersions formed by the claimed processes.

Applicants submit that the subject matter of Claims 57 and 58 is further patentable over the art of record.

With respect to Messner (U.S. 5,480,934), the claims now recite the inclusion of an inorganic salt in an amount of 0.5-3.0 wt%. Messner, in contrast, describes compositions that are salt free (see the disclosure at column 2, lines 24-31 of Messner). Even if Messner described the inclusion of an inorganic salt, which is not the case, the examples of the present specification prove that the inclusion of a particular amount of inorganic salt provides a composition having substantially greater resistance towards undesirable thickening. Applicants draw the Office's attention to Table 1 on page 19 of the specification which describes the viscosity characteristics of dispersions including differing amounts of inorganic salt, i.e., $(NH_4)_2SO_4$.

Further in this regard Applicants draw the Office's attention to new Claims 53 and 56 which recite a different range of inorganic salt.

For the reasons discussed above in detail, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all now-pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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